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Media Contact:

Emily Martin

Cancer Support Community

202-650-5371

emily@cancersupportcommunity.org

Media Contact:

Jane Colony Mills

American Psychosocial Oncology Society

434-293-5350

jmills@apos-society.org

Cancer Support Community and American Psychosocial Oncology Society Collaborate to Offer Expanded Emotional Support for People Affected by Cancer

WASHINGTON – (Mar. 12, 2015) – The Cancer Support Community (CSC) and the American Psychosocial Oncology Society (APOS) announce a new partnership that expands CSC’s Cancer Support Helpline services and broadens the reach of APOS’ 12-year-old nationwide cancer counseling referral service.

Now, callers to the Cancer Support Helpline (1-888-793-9355) or the APOS Helpline (1-866-276-7443) will have full access to CSC’s licensed call center professionals and the APOS database of 1,000 providers nationwide who offer counseling services specifically for people affected by cancer. Callers to both hotlines can expect to speak with a trained and licensed counselor who is prepared to assist with many of the complex issues associated with cancer, including treatment decision counseling, screening for social and emotional distress and referrals to professional services in their local community.

“We are delighted to be partnering with APOS, the premier professional society dedicated to advancing the science and practice of psychosocial care for people affected by cancer. Together, we can address the unmet psychosocial health needs of people touched by cancer and connect them to vital counseling and support services in their communities,” said Vicki Kennedy, LCSW, vice president of program development and delivery at the Cancer Support Community.

“Collaborating with the Cancer Support Community to provide enhanced service through the Cancer Support Helpline allows both APOS and CSC to maximize efficiencies and optimize their respective missions,” said Ilana M. Braun, MD, chief of adult psychosocial oncology for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, MA and member of the APOS board of directors.

The Cancer Support Helpline (1-888-793-9355) assists patients as well as their friends and family with a variety of cancer-related concerns, providing short-term counseling and referrals to local community resources. The helpline is open from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Eastern, Monday through Friday, and is available in English and Spanish.

About the Cancer Support Community

The mission of the Cancer Support Community (CSC) is to ensure that all people impacted by cancer are empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action and sustained by community. In 2009, The Wellness Community and Gilda’s Club joined forces to become the Cancer Support Community. The



combined organization, with more than 50 years of collective experience, provides the highest quality social and emotional support for people impacted by cancer through a network of more than 50 licensed Affiliates, more than 120 satellite locations and vibrant online and telephone communities, touching more than one million people each year.

Backed by evidence that the best cancer care includes social and emotional support, the Cancer Support Community offers these services free of charge to men, women and children with any type or stage of cancer, and to their loved ones. As the largest professionally led nonprofit network of cancer support worldwide, the Cancer Support Community delivers a comprehensive menu of personalized and essential services including support groups, educational workshops, exercise, art and nutrition classes and social activities for the entire family. Through cutting-edge psychosocial, behavioral and survivorship research, the Cancer Support Community's *Research and Training Institute* is helping CSC change the future of cancer care through education and training. The Cancer Support Community's *Cancer Policy Institute* ensures that the voices of 13.7 million cancer survivors and their families are heard in the nation's capital and state and local legislatures across the country. In 2014, the CSC network delivered nearly \$48 million in free services to patients and families. The Cancer Support Community is advancing the innovations that are becoming the standard in complete cancer care. So that no one faces cancer alone®. For more information, please visit

www.CancerSupportCommunity.org

About the American Psychosocial Oncology Society

The mission of the American Psychosocial Oncology Society (APOS), a national, multidisciplinary organization, is to promote the psychological, social, behavioral, and spiritual wellbeing of patients with cancer and their families through the delivery of psychosocial clinical care, education, research, and advocacy. Psychosocial oncology is the sub-specialty in oncology that studies the impact of cancer on patients at all stages of disease and their families and develops therapeutic alternatives to address that impact.

APOS develops and implements educational programs for health professionals delivering psychological, social, behavioral, or spiritual care for people affected by cancer; provides a networking forum for professionals and individuals interested in psychosocial oncology; and has helped ensure that the psychosocial domain is addressed in the standards for quality of care for patients with cancer. APOS currently offers a two-year educational program to train cancer care clinicians on developing and implementing a comprehensive program in their practice environments that will screen cancer patients for levels of distress that indicate a need for supportive services.

APOS publishes a series of pocket reference handbooks to guide the psychiatric and psychological dimensions of cancer symptom management for adult, pediatric, and geriatric patients, and the journal *Psycho-Oncology*, ranked #1 among Social Sciences Biomedical journals. For further information about APOS' programs, please visit www.apos-society.org or contact APOS Headquarters, 154 Hansen Rd, Suite 201, Charlottesville, VA 22911, at 434.293.5350 or info@apos-society.org.

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